

Ashwood, Jaden Barney, McKenna Barney, Tammy Bevilacqua, Elizabeth Bianchini, Claire Brunson, Dakota Calvert, Abby Ceraso, Rachel Clapper, Ananya Cleetus, Claudia Contreras, Kaylie Cullison, Maureen Deken, Laurel Donatelli, Mackenzie Ferris, Kiran Gaulee, Naoka Gunawardena, Grace Handler, Heather Harrington, Rosanne Harrison, Kathryn Hendrickson, Erin Higgins, Samantha Holland, Imani Horton, Natalie Janosik, Campbell Konrad, Elizabeth Kysel, Sylvie Lee, Shana Leshko, Murong Li, Serena Mani, Mansi Mann, Pragna Mannam, Elise Medeiros, Grace Mitro, Sruthi Muluk, Lindsay Myer, Remy Niman, Raina Oravec, Olivia Parks, Jennifer Rickens, Kaylyn Rocher, Alex Roth, Rachel Round, Chelsi Sayti, Katelin Shreve, Amrita Singh, Jessica Slain, Nancy Soliman, Lauren Spence, Lynn Urbina, Bryce Volk, Rebecca Volk, Molly Walsh, Giulia Watkins, and Melanie Young.

Pittsburgh is proud of the Girls of Steel for their hard work and dedication to the fields of robotics and engineering and for inspiring others within their community to get involved in this important industry. I wish them the best of luck in St. Louis in April and congratulate them once again on their continued success in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition.

RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3001, the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Celebration Act.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest award that can be bestowed by this body—to Raoul Wallenberg on the centennial of his birth.

The story of Raoul Wallenberg's work as an official with the Swedish Embassy in Hungary working in conjunction with the American War Refugee Board is one of bravery, heroism, and ultimately, self sacrifice.

Though Raoul Wallenberg's fate remains a mystery to this day, his legacy can be seen in the tens of thousands of people who survived the war by virtue of his efforts—including my late colleague and friend Tom Lantos and his wife Annette.

Of the 120,000 Hungarian Jews that survived the Holocaust, Raoul Wallenberg, acting under the War Refugee Board, is credited with saving an estimated 100,000 of them in a six-month period.

This year, both Sweden and Hungary celebrate "Raoul Wallenberg Year" to mark the 100th anniversary of Wallenberg's birth.

These nations will pay tribute to Wallenberg's courageous work by holding conferences, concerts, exhibitions, and other events to commemorate and educate people about the role he played helping to save the remainder of Hungary's Jewish community.

I hope my colleagues join me in honoring the memory of Raoul Wallenberg and the innumerable individuals and their descendants that he helped save.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Members of the House to vote for this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEAN A. VANEVRY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dean VanEvery of Ames for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the last century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Dean's project was to renovate a nature trail at Brookside Park in Ames, which required serious rehabilitation after flooding had left the trail covered with large amounts of debris. The work ethic Dean has shown in this project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Dean and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career. Thank you.

OBSERVANCE OF EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in recognition of Equal Pay Day, a day that spotlights the financial struggles that women must endure because of wage discrimination and the need to close the gender-based wage gap once and for all.

The answer is simple. Women should be paid equal wages to their male counterparts: pay discrimination is unfair, unwarranted and costly.

Equal pay is not only a fight for women, but for the families that depend on them. Women are the primary or co-breadwinners in six out of ten households; yet earn only 77 cents to every dollar paid to men. With smaller paychecks, women are forced to stretch limited dollars even further to provide healthcare, food, and shelter for themselves and their families.

According to a report by the National Partnership for Women & Families, women across the country are collectively losing tens of billions of dollars annually because of wage inequity. Over a 40-year working career, the average woman loses \$431,000 as a result of the wage gap. This picture is even worse for African American and Hispanic women, who earn 71 cents and 62 cents respectively for every dollar men are paid.

In the 21st century, it seems unbelievable that equal pay is controversial. Yet, just last week, Wisconsin signed into law legislation to repeal provisions of the 2009 Equal Pay Enforcement Act. This Congress has the opportunity to build on the progress made by the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act—legislation to strengthen pay discrimination lawsuits and the first bill ever signed into law by President Obama. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act clarified that each paycheck resulting from a discriminatory pay decision would constitute a new violation of the employment non-discrimination law and restart the clock for filing a claim.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, legislation currently being considered in this Congress, would go even further to fight pay discrimination and improve wages for women. The Paycheck Fairness Act, sponsored by my friend and colleague Congresswoman ROSA DELAUNO, would strengthen the Equal Pay Act by requiring an employer to prove that a difference in pay between a man and a woman for the same position is not sex-based. The legislation would also bring the equal pay law into line with all other civil rights law by increasing the available remedies to include punitive and compensatory damages. As a cosponsor, I believe the Paycheck Fairness Act is essential legislation to address the lingering injustice of pay inequity.

As our economy shows signs of revival, women and their families must not be left behind. We must send a strong message that pay discrimination should not stand.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES NATHANIEL RICHARDS, 2012 MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize James Richards of Jamul. James was named the recipient of the 2012 Military Child of the Year Award, which honors military children who stand out among others in their community.

The candidates must demonstrate good character, and excel within both military and civilian communities. James embodies all of the qualities and more.

Each year, more than 1,000 nominees are considered for this award. The recipient is chosen by a committee including those currently in the military, Family Readiness Support Assistants, teachers and others. After choosing the winner, the award is given to one military child from each branch of service.

Anyone who knows James is aware that he is extremely involved in his community. He started a blog to help deal with members of his family being deployed. Currently 87 military children follow his blog daily. James also started the anti-bully committee at his school, which meets once a week to discuss ways to prevent bullying in schools.

James is one American who is making a difference by lending a helping hand to others. Last year, James volunteered over 200 hours during Christmas season at the USO collecting toys for less fortunate children and wrapping stockings to send to the troops. After